

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. INDOCHINA HAS BEEN FEATURED BY RECENT PAPERS; FRIDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE TRADE SURPLUS IN FEBRUARY; SUNDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE SADAT ON SUEZ CANAL. BALTSUN EDITORIALIZES ON CSCE.

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1A. THURSDAY WASHSTAR HAD INSIDE, US SEES MERIT IN

JACKSON PROPOSAL; FRIDAY NYTIMES HAD REPORT ON CSCE; ALSO WASHINGTON STORY, 5 NATO COUNTRIES VOICE UNEASE OVER LISBON SHIFT. MONDAY PAPERS REPORT BRANDT DISCOUNTS MISTRUST OF US.

2. SALT. THURSDAY WASHSTAR BRADSHER LOCAL SAID JACKSON PROPOSAL TO MOVE TOWARD THE REDUCTION OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY AGREEING UPON SOME OBSOLESCENCE WAS GREETED WITH INITIAL INTEREST BY ADMINISTRATION SOURCES WHICH SAID IT HAS SOME MERIT AND APPEARED TO BE WELL SUITED FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. BRADSHER SAID JACKSON'S PROPOSAL THAT AT EACH SIDE DESIGNATE 700 MISSILES TO REMAIN UNMODERNIZED WOULD EVENTUALLY BRING WEAPONS TOTALS BELOW THE CEILING OF 1760 WHICH JACKSON HAD EARLIER PROPOSED. ON CURRENT GENEVA

SESSION, BRADSHER SAID BOTH SIDES HAVE TABLED DRAFT TREATIES GIVING THEIR LEGALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF WHAT WAS AGREED UPON AT VLADIVOSTOK AND DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER-WAY TO TRY TO RECONCILE WHAT ARE REPORTEDLY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES IN THE DRAFTS. ACCORDING TO BRADSHER, THE INITIAL, UNOFFICIAL ADMINISTRATION REACTION TO JACKSON'S PROPOSAL SUGGESTED SOME INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF SAVING MONEY BY NOT HAVING TO KEEP UP MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT COMPETITION OVER A FULL RANGE OF 2400 SYSTEMS, BRADSHER ADDING THAT SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE BACKGROUND OF JACKSON'S PROPOSAL SUGGESTED LOGICAL CANDIDATES FOR THE 700 SYSTEMS WOULD BE THE OLDER WEAPONS, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTINUED MIX OF WEAPONRY THAT IS ASSUMED TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SECURITY AGAINST ATTACK, MENTIONING ON AMERICAN SIDE: 10 POLARIS SUBS; 200 EARLY B-52S; 300 MINUTEMAN TWO MISSILES; 54 OLD TITANS; AND ON SOVIET SIDE: SS-7 AND SS-8 MISSILES IN SOFT SILOS; Y-CLASS SUBS; SS-11 AND SS-13 MISSILES BEING REPLACED. BRADSHER SAYS PROBLEM OF VERIFYING WHETHER ANY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT IS BEING OBSERVED HAS RUN THROUGH SALT TALKS AND SECRET HEARINGS ARE BEING HELD BY JACKSON'S ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES; AND AN INITIAL ADMINISTRATION REACTION WAS THAT NEW PROPOSAL WOULD COMPOUND VERIFICATION PROBLEM BECAUSE SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY CANNOT DETERMINE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHETHER MISSILES HAVE BEEN MODERNIZED, THUS GIVING NO CHECK ON ANY AGREEMENT TO LET SOME SYSTEMS BECOME OBSOLETE. BUT SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH JACKSON'S PROPOSALS, BRADSHER SAID, FEEL THAT THE VERY NATURE OF MISSILES AND SUBS IN

QUESTION ALLOWED VERIFICATION, GIVING AS ONE EXAMPLE FACT THAT MIRVED MISSILES FOR SOVIET D-CLASS SUBMARINES CANNOT FIT INTO OLDER SUBS.

2A. SUNDAY WASHSTAR HEADED AN O'LEARY DISPATCH, WILL KISSINGER QUIT AFTER SALT SUMMIT?, O'LEARY SAYING SPECULATION IS GROWING SECRETARY MIGHT RESIGN AFTER FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT SIGNATURE OF SALT TWO, O'LEARY MENTIONING KISSINGER'S FRUSTRATIONS IN MIDEAST AND CYPRUS AND THAT LATIN AMERICAN TRIP MAY BACKFIRE, LEAVING ONLY SALT TWO ON WHICH THERE IS SOME ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS. ALL MONDAY PAPERS HAVE PALM SPRINGS STORIES SAYING FORD HAS ASKED KISSINGER TO STAY UNTIL JANUARY 1977.

3. CSCE. FRIDAY NYTIMES FLORA LEWIS GENEVA REPORTED CSCE RECESSED FOR EASTER AFTER SOVIET UNION PROPOSED FINAL DOCUMENT BE SIGNED IN FOUR SEPARATE PARTS AT HELSINKI, LEWIS ADDING THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT TALKS WILL BE CONCLUDED AFTER EASTER BUT PROBABLY NOT IN TIME FOR SOVIET TARGET

DATE OF JUNE 30, BUT NO ONE DOUBTS THERE WILL BE A SUMMIT. ACCORDING LEWIS, MAIN VALUE OF DOCUMENT IN WESTERN EYES IS ITS ASSURANCES ON MOVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND INFORMATION; DOCUMENT WILL NOT HAVE TREATY STATUS OR REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE APPROVALS BUT ONE PASSAGE PROVIDES IT WILL HAVE SAME WEIGHT AS OTHER, MORE JURIDICAL INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. LEWIS SAID WEST WANTS WHOLE TEXT SIGNED AT ONCE, GIVING EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL ITS PROVISIONS WHEREAS SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SEPARATE SIGNATURE COULD IMPLY THAT THE PRINCIPLES REMAIN IN FORCE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT. ACCORDING LEWIS, KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS AT THE TALKS SAID THEY BELIEVED CSCE WAS ONE OF THREE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DESIRED BY BREZHNEV BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT AND NOTING THAT NO SOVIET LEADER HAS VOLUNTARILY TRANSFERRED POWER SINCE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION: 1, CSCE, 2, SALT TWO, 3, 25TH COMMUNIST UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTY CONGRESS SET FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3A. MONDAY BALSUN EDITORIAL SAYS CSCE SUMMIT WILL BE CLOSEST THING YET TO FORMAL POST WWII PEACE CONFERENCE WITH PREPARATIONS OF WESTERN NATIONS TO ATTEND REFLECTING CHANGES AND DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE UNDER DETENTE. SUN SAYS SOVIET OBJECTIVE OF GAINING WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF HEGEMONY IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY LIBERALIZATION IN SOVIET SYSTEM, A GREAT FAILING OF DETENTE, AND WARNS THAT WEST SHOULD INSIST ON SATISFACTORY CLARIFICATION OF MANY REMAINING POINTS BEFORE AGREEING TO GO TO HELSINKI.

4. BRANDT. MONDAY BALSUN NYTIMES HAVE REUTER WASHINGTON REPORTING BRANDT ON NBC MEET THE PRESS DISCOUNTED FEARS

THAT US REFUSAL TO PROVIDE AID TO INDOCHINA MIGHT PROVOKE  
EUROPEAN FEARS THAT WASHINGTON IS PULLING BACK FROM  
ITS COMMITMENTS. BRANDT SAID WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES WILL  
NOT LINK US DECISIONS IN VIETNAM TO STRENGTH AND  
COOPERATION WITHIN WESTERN ALLIANCE. KISSINGER

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